



Home

Roofs

Openings

[Home](#) > [Leaks](#) > [Roof Vents](#)

[PDF Version](#) [Questions](#)

Features & Equip.

Leaks

Structural

Survey & Decisions

Roof Vents

attach the ridge vents by looking along the edge of the roof deck near the cut-out at the ridge to see if there are any fasteners that are larger or different from those used to attach the roof covering. You should also be able to lift up the edge of the ridge vent top so that you can see the heads of the fasteners from the top of the roof. Check the ridge vent along its length

for any loose spots by pulling up on the edge. Be careful not to damage the shingle material that may be attached to the top surface of the ridge vent but you can pull up firmly to check for looseness of the vents (you should be able to pull up with a force of about 50 pounds without any danger of pulling loose a well attached ridge vent cover). If the ridge vent is loose or the fasteners are spaced more than about 12 inches apart, you should reattach the ridge vent cover. We recommend using #8 stainless steel screws to increase the anchorage of the ridge vents. Screws at least 1-1/4" long should be sufficient, but make sure that the screws are long enough to go through the base of the ridge vent cover and completely through the deck below. If the ridge vent covers seem to be well attached but are nailed to the decking, you can provide an extra measure of anchorage protection by clinching (bending over) the nails from the inside of your attic. However, if the nails are short and stubby or large diameter, trying to clinch them may do more damage than good. If shingle nails were used to hold down the vents, then you probably won't be able to clinch them because they are too short and too fat to bend easily.

Off-Ridge Vents: If you don't have gable end vents or ridge vents and you have a vented attic, you probably have off ridge vents. The most common form of off ridge vents are those that have a goose neck, the shape of an inverted J. The opening is at the end of the short part of the J and the inverted shape is intended to make it hard for water to enter the opening. There are other products that look like tile or are the same size as one or two tiles and can be integrated into the roof covering. In some cases, vents are installed as pairs with one near the bottom of the roof and the other near the ridge. We have heard a number of complaints about water blowing in through off ridge vents including cases where they have broken loose or flipped up and actually scooped water into the attic. The first step is to check and make sure that the off ridge vent is securely attached to the roof. Grab

This metal ridge vent is very poorly attached - many of the newer products accommodate installing shingle material over the top that provides the same look as the roof shingles and covers the fastener locations - you can still lift up the edge to get a good look at the anchorage of the ridge vent.

(click image for larger version)



Off-ridge vent on a shingle roof

(click image for larger version)



hold of the vent from the outside and try to wiggle it back and forth. Again, the anchorage should be strong enough that you can not move it with a force of between 50 and 100 pounds. You can also check the fasteners from inside of the attic and if it is nailed to the roof deck, you can provide an extra measure of anchorage protection by clinching the nails from the inside of your attic.

Attic view of inside of off-ridge vent

(click image for larger version)

Some homeowners have reported water being driven into the attic through goose neck vents in certain locations. It appears that the roof shape and orientation of the vent relative to the direction of the winds plays an important role in which vents leak. As a just before the storm measure, they report success in reducing the amount of water intrusion by stuffing the vents with foam swimming pool floats (long foam rods) and taping plastic over the opening from the inside of the attic.

Goose Neck Vents and Turbines:

Goose neck vents, turbine vents and a variety of roof vents that work in ordinary wind probably will not keep out water in a hurricane. Goose neck vents are really another form of off-ridge vent but they are also frequently used for bathroom vents. Turbine vents are not designed to keep water out in strong winds and few are designed to stay on the roof in strong winds. The turbine vents should be removed and the holes left by the duct sticking up from the roof should be covered and sealed as part of your preparations for a hurricane. You need to be sure that you securely seal the opening with a cover that will not be ripped off during the storm. At least one roofing manufacturer (GAF's Master Flow) makes a weather cap to replace turbines.



A typical small goose neck vent on a shingle roof - make sure it is well anchored - you could try to seal it in preparation for a hurricane

(click image for larger version)

You can also make your own temporary cap to be used as part of your storm preparations. Check to see if the turbine is connected with screws to the duct that comes up from the roof. In most cases, you can just lift the turbine off the duct. If not, remove the screws and lift the turbine off the duct. Measure the inside diameter of the duct. You can make a cover by using a jig saw to cut a somewhat round disk of 1/2" thick plywood a little larger than the size of the duct. To do this,



Typical turbine vent - note the friction fit of the top part to the collar - you could add screws but the better bet would be to remove the top and cover or plug the collar stack.

(click image for larger version)

place the bottom of the turbine on a piece of plywood and draw a circle around the outside of the turbine neck. Cut the disk about 1/4" larger all the way around the circle using a jig saw. Find the center of the disk, measure,

and then mark points $\frac{1}{2}$ the diameter of the duct from the middle of the disk. Attach a series of 1-1/2" thick blocks around the perimeter of the disk so that their outside edges are just touching the points measured $\frac{1}{2}$ the diameter of the duct from the center of the disk. (As an alternate you could cut out a disk of 1-1/2" thick boards a little smaller than the diameter of the inside of the duct and attach it to the plywood disk.) Slide the side of the disk with the 1-1/2" thick material into the open hole in the duct, the larger plywood disk will keep the cover from falling through the hole. Install screws through the walls of the turbine duct and into the blocks or disk of 1-1/2" thick material to hold the cover in place. Use duct tape to seal the plywood disk to the turbine duct. Do not forget to remove the cover and re-install the turbine after the storm or threat of the storm has passed.

[Back to Main Leaks Page](#)

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